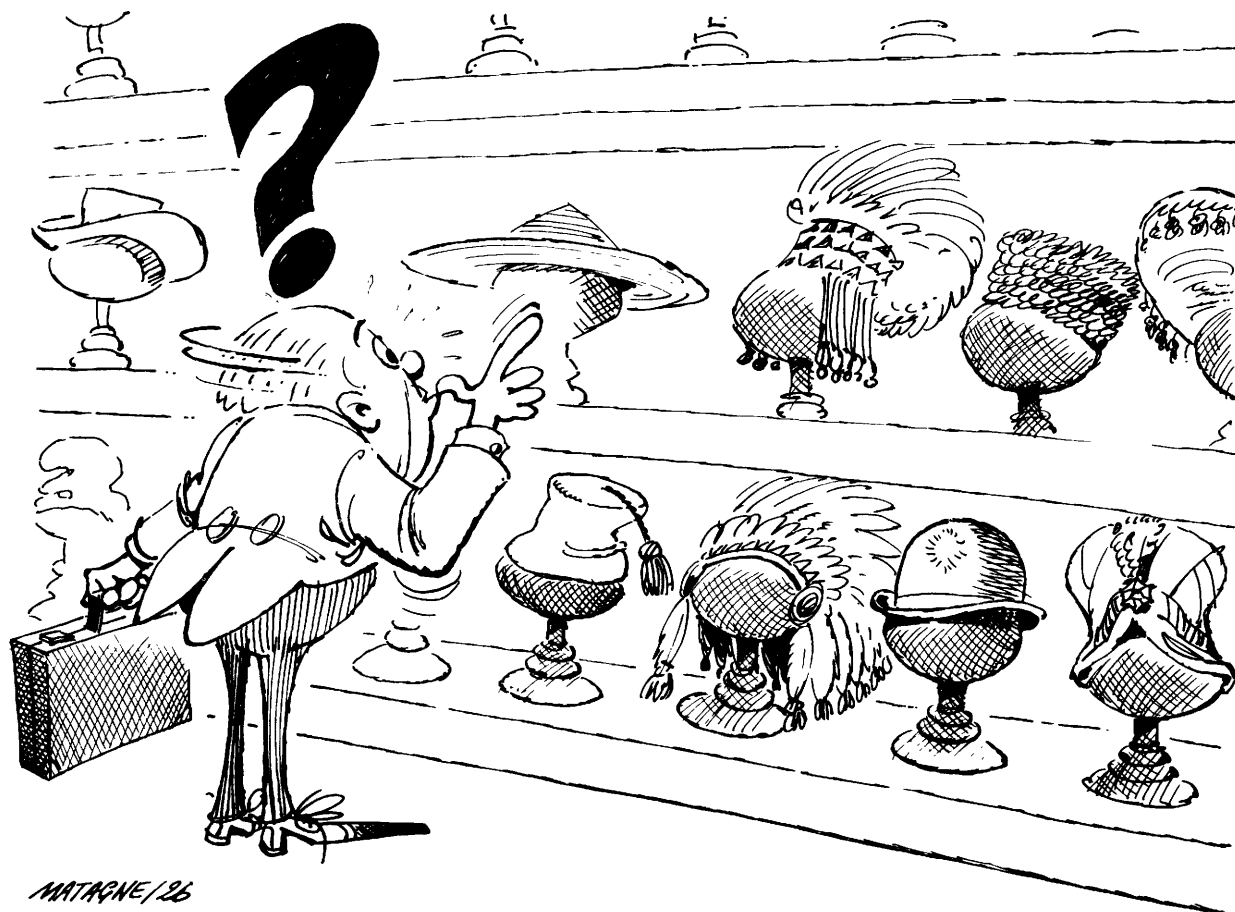


Brussels, 13 July 1976

No 28/76



Multinational companies think carefully before setting up subsidiaries abroad ... Yet a recent survey by the European Commission shows that the 4 534 Community-based multinationals have 49 256 links abroad while the 2 570 based in the United States have 24 177.

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**** 4 534 COMMUNITY MULTINATIONALS**

Surprise, surprise! There are more multinationals based in the Community than in the United States.

More surprising facts and figures about multinationals come to light in ANNEX 1.

**** CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION**

Europe should let off a twenty-one gun salute to mark the adoption of eighteen new directives.

In ANNEX 2 Euroforum explains why honours generally reserved for crown princes should be accorded to a pile of fusty documents.

**** TEACHER TRAINING IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

If the Community's action programme on education is to stand any chance of success, considerable time and effort must be devoted to the key issue of teacher training.

In ANNEX 3 Euroforum presents extracts from a study by Mr Mario Reguzzoni on teacher training in the European Community.

**** EUROPE FIGHTS THE DROUGHT**

The effects of the drought are being felt all over Europe. In a statement to the European Parliament, Mr Lardinois, Member of the European Commission with special responsibility for agriculture, said that the full extent of the damage would not be known until September.

The European Commission is already doing what it can to ease the situation. Even before the present crisis point was reached, it had introduced private storage aids for beef and veal throughout the Community and had authorized France to buy in up to 10 000 tonnes of meat in areas where cows had had to be slaughtered because of the drought. This authorization has now been extended to a total of approximately 8 000 tonnes.

The European Commission intends to clamp down on speculative exports of fodder by imposing a 40% export levy on hay and other dried fodder. It has also urged the Member States to ban the burning of straw and to investigate the possibility of feeding molasses to animals.

It is also planning to reduce customs duties on lucerne seeds, if Community stocks run out, to allow a second crop to be harvested this year.

**** SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL**

Social protection should be extended to everyone not covered or inadequately protected at present: this in a nutshell is what the European Commission advocates in a draft recommendation to the Member States.

The text, which will be referred to the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee before being finalized, urges Member States:

- . to ensure that all workers are covered for sickness, invalidity, old age and family benefits;

to extend cover for sickness, old age and family benefits to people who are not in paid employment; initially priority would be given to the congenitally handicapped and to those engaged in unpaid household duties;

to provide certain categories of people without work with income and services analogous to those provided under social security schemes in the event of invalidity or unemployment; priority here would be given to the handicapped, young people who do not yet qualify for unemployment benefit, and the self-employed who have been forced out of work by the crisis and do not have enough funds to see them through.

** UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

The latest figures for registered unemployment in the nine Community countries are given below:

Country	Month	1976	Variation 1976/1975
Belgium	May	216 938 (8.2%) ³	+ 55 825 (+ 35%)
Denmark	April	119 000 (5.8%) ²	- 9 200 (- 7%)
France	April	896 931 (5.2%) ²	+ 139 647 (- 18%)
Germany	May	953 538 (4.2%) ²	- 64 178 (- 6%)
Ireland	May	109 657 (9.8%) ¹	+ 13 518 (+ 14%)
Italy	March	1 218 012 (6.2%) ¹	+ 130 523 (+ 12%)
Netherlands	May	189 047 (4.8%) ²	+ 15 619 (+ 9%)
Great Britain	May UK	220 360 (5.3%) ²	+ 407 305 (+ 50%)
Northern Ireland		51 466 (9.9%) ²	+ 144 188 (+ 38%)

¹ % calculated on basis of labour force.

² % calculated on basis of total number of wage-earners.

³ % calculated on basis of persons registered for unemployment insurance.

** AID FROM THE REGIONAL FUND

The gap between the richest and poorest regions in the Community is widening relentlessly. In 1970 GDP per head in Hamburg was five times higher than in the west of Ireland and GDP per head in Paris was four times higher than in the south of Italy. But by 1975 the ratios had become 6:1 and 5:1 respectively. This is one of the lessons to be learned from the first annual report of the European Regional Development Fund.

The Fund has been badly hit by the economic crisis: the 500 million units of account earmarked for it in 1977 would need to be increased to 750 million to offset the effects of inflation (1 u.a. = approx. US \$1.1).

The Fund was set up in March 1975 and became fully operational in July of the same year; the first decisions on applications for aid were taken in October and the first payments were made in December; yet in these few months the entire 300 million units of account available to the Fund for the year were allocated.

It is obviously too soon to pass final judgment but the European Commission has drawn a number of preliminary conclusions.

Firstly, the principle of "additionality" (i.e., that Fund resources must complement rather than lead to a reduction in national expenditure on regional development) is fundamental. Not all Member States have been able to devise a completely satisfactory method of showing how Fund resources are being used. The Commission trusts that further progress will be made in this direction during 1977 and will be keeping a close watch on developments.

Secondly, a more determined effort must be made to concentrate Fund resources on regions experiencing the greatest difficulties and on the projects and industries best calculated to help overcome those difficulties. This conclusion is particularly important given the relatively limited resources available.

Thirdly, regional development programmes are crucial not only in terms of the Fund itself but also in the interests of adequate coordination of Community and national measures in this area.

**** PESTICIDES: THE RISK TO HEALTH**

Dust in the air in different parts of Europe contains traces of pesticides (including the notorious DDT) in amounts varying between 0.0001 and 0.001 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ dust. In rain-water, like large rivers which are constantly discharging residues into the sea, the level can be up to one hundred times higher. This emerges from a recent European Commission communication to the Community's Council of Ministers on the objective evaluation of the risks to human health from pollution by some persistent organo-chlorine compounds widely used in pesticides.

But there is no need for panic! The residue levels found in human fatty tissue in Europe did not differ greatly from levels recorded elsewhere.

Reports from the nine Community countries show that, thanks to strict controls, the use of persistent organo-chlorine pesticides and human exposure to them is on the decline. However, the gaps in scientific knowledge make continued caution necessary. The European Commission recommends a cut-back in the use of these pesticides, the introduction of a system for the strict control of emissions of organo-chlorine compounds and the tightening-up of restrictions on these compounds in food and animal feedingstuffs.

**** WORK FOR THE UNEMPLOYED**

Building bridges, planting trees in public parks, helping old people: the authorities in all Community countries are organizing special schemes designed to reduce unemployment.

The European Commission gave some concrete examples of what is being done in reply to a recent question from a member of the European Parliament.

In Denmark at the end of November 1975 1 200 young people were working on social and environmental amenity schemes as part of a twenty million kroner programme to reduce unemployment.

In Ireland, after a brief period of instruction in a vocational training centre, young people are being put to work on community projects; doing up old people's homes, improving public parks, building children's playgrounds and so on. Something like 800 young people will be employed on schemes of this kind in 1976 at a total cost to the public of £450 000.

In the Netherlands land reclamation schemes are a traditional part of the machinery for creating employment. A total of Fl 20 million has also been allocated by the government to finance public parks, building children's playgrounds and so on. These include projects to help the elderly, the young and the handicapped, and to improve housing, living and working conditions.

In the United Kingdom a job creation programme was introduced in November 1975 to promote short-term social amenity projects run by local authorities or organizations in areas particularly hard-hit by unemployment. The programme was originally allocated £30 million; this was subsequently increased by £10 million and then by a further £30 million. By February 1976 722 projects, which gave employment to 9 027 workers, had been completed at a cost of just over £10 million.

**** RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES AND FREE COMPETITION**

Hoechst AG (Frankfurt) is now free to resell the ampicillin supplied by Beecham Pharma GmbH (Mainz), a subsidiary of Beecham Ltd. (Brentford), throughout the European Community. Following representations by the European Commission the two firms have amended the terms of the original supply contract under which Hoechst could resell in Germany and Austria only. This restriction was clearly in contravention of the principle - firmly established by the Community's Court of Justice - that once a product is lawfully put on the market in the Community it must be allowed full freedom of movement.

Centraal Stikstof Verkoopkantoor BV (CSV), a Dutch joint selling agency for straight nitrogenous fertilizers, has been given eighty days to supply the European Commission with certain information relating to its commercial activities. If it fails to comply, it will be facing a fine of 1 000 units of account (1 u.a. = approx US \$1.1) for each day's delay.

The Commission has taken this course of action because CSV refused to comply with an earlier request for information on the grounds that the members of its staff who are in a position to supply the information are also directors of the European cartel of manufacturers of nitrogenous fertilizers - Nitrex AG - headquartered in Switzerland. And under Swiss law disclosure of business secrets relating to a Swiss undertaking is a criminal offence.

The Commission refuses to accept this argument. It maintains that it needs the information to assess the effects of CSV's behaviour on competition within the Community; in its view the fact that the information has been voluntarily supplied to an international cartel governed by the law of a non-member country in no way affects the Commission's right to receive such information.

**** A YOUTH SECRETARIAT**

Representatives of a cross-section of national and international youth organizations are to meet in Brussels on 23 July at the invitation of the European Commission. One of the items on the agenda will be the official setting-up of a "temporary secretariat for

European youth" which has just been given the go-ahead by the Community's Council of Ministers.

Its function? To give young people an opportunity of meeting to discuss the aspects of Community integration which are of most concern to them: direct elections to the European Parliament, the critical transition from school to working life and other problems facing the young.

The secretariat will be completely autonomous: it will be run by Europe's youth organizations and a young person chosen by his (or her) contemporaries will be responsible for coordinating and promoting its activities.

This move can be seen as the first step towards a European Youth Forum, an idea which has been discussed for many years past. It also gives concrete expression to the wish expressed by the Heads of State and Government at The Hague Summit in 1969 to see young people more directly involved in the building of Europe.

**** ASBESTOS: ANOTHER HEALTH HAZARD?**

At the last meeting of the European Parliament the European Commission outlined briefly for the benefit of Lord Bethell what it is doing to combat the health hazard represented by asbestos.

As far back as the autumn of 1974 a seminar was organized to review research and legislation in this field and examine the various methods used in Community countries to sample and measure the asbestos content of air at the work place.

Following this seminar the European Commission launched an investigation into the health hazards associated with asbestos, with particular reference to the influence of the physico-chemical nature of asbestos fibres.

The Community's Action Programme on the Environment lists asbestos as a first category pollutant meriting priority investigation and a communication on the health risks associated with asbestos is now being prepared for presentation to the Community's Council of Ministers.

**** A COMMUNITY TRADE MARK**

There are now more than one and a half million registered trade marks in the Nine! With an enormous variety of goods and services on offer the trade mark is more valuable than ever as an indication of origin for the buyer, as a means of sales promotion for its owner and as a guarantee of quality for the consumer.

This is why the European Commission feels that rules for trade marks along the lines of those recently adopted for patents (see I&S No 43/75) would make sense.

Since national trade mark law varies, firms wishing to market their goods in a number of Community countries are obliged to register their trade marks in each of them. This costs money and can involve a lot of tiresome legal complications. The advantages of marketing products throughout the Community under one universally accepted trade mark are obvious.

But this is not enough. The Community trade mark system must be as attractive as possible which is why, in addition to ensuring that the registration procedure is simple, flexible and inexpensive, the European Commission is planning to set up a Community Trade Mark Office to provide greater security for those applying for registration by

investigating rights under previous trade marks and assisting in the settlement of any disputes which might arise in this connection.

**** IODINE TRAPS**

Iodine, a recognized safety hazard in nuclear power stations, is the subject of a recent study by the European Commission. Published - in German - under the title "Jodefilter in Kernkraftwerken" it deals with the design, installation, maintenance and monitoring of iodine traps.

An English version of the report is being prepared and should be available later this year from the European Commission, Directorate for Health and Safety, Bâtiment Jean Monnet A2, Luxembourg.

**** ENVIRONMENT: HOURS AND HOURS OF HAPPY READING**

A recent environment protection bibliography compiled and published by the European Commission should prove to be of great interest to environmentalists. Part I lists Community legislation, Commission proposals and papers issued by the various Community institutions, Part II covers reports, studies and articles featured in official Community publications, while Part III refers readers to selected articles which have appeared in Community languages. The bibliography (Documentation Bulletin - Supplement B/22) is available from the European Commission's Central Archives and Documentation Service - SCAD (IX-D-1) - rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels.

4 534 COMMUNITY MULTINATIONALS

Surprise, surprise! A recent survey by the European Commission reveals that more multinationals - defined as large undertakings with "links" with two or more countries - are based in the Community than in the United States. Who would have thought it! The survey is part of an ambitious project to compile the first-ever world inventory of large, medium-sized and small multinationals. There are approximately 10 000 multinationals in Europe and elsewhere (the main concentration being in the United States) and the survey is the first phase of an attempt by the European Commission to assess the economic, social and political impact of each group in its home country and in each of the countries in which it is established.

The report is based on information obtained directly from the firms concerned and lists a total of 4 534 multinationals based in the Community as against 2 570 based in the United States. Not only are European multinationals more numerous but, with 49 256 links abroad, they also seem to be more go-ahead than their American counterparts, who have only 24 177. Of the Community multinationals, 173 have links in more than twenty different countries, while only 113 American multinationals are similarly represented.

But the illusion of European drive and initiative is short-lived. An analysis of economic and financial results, based admittedly on a list which cannot hope to be comprehensive, shows, for example, that 1 202 American multinationals in the manufacturing industries achieve a total turnover of 737 000 million units of account (1 u.a. = approx. US \$1.1) as compared with a mere 516 000 million units of account for 2 493 European multinationals. This means that American multinationals achieve a total turnover which is 43% higher than the turnover of approximately twice as many European firms.

An analysis of the top 200 shows that US-based multinationals are clear leaders, both in terms of numbers (51.5%) and turnover (50.7%). Only seventy (35%) of the top 200 are based in a Community country and these account for no more than 30.1% of the combined turnover (257 057 u.a.).

To give some idea of the scale on which these giants operate, the Commission survey points out that in 1973 the combined turnover figure for the top 200 (853 124 million u.a.) represented 32.9% of the combined gross domestic product of OECD countries (2 593 592 million u.a.).

On the employment front, the survey shows that the 5 112 multinationals for which such information was supplied had a combined payroll of 45 922 733 in 1973. The 260 biggest employers had a total payroll of 25 082 516, in other words 12% of the labour force of OECD countries.

The potential impact of multinationals on the economy of their home countries is revealed by calculating their turnover as a percentage of gross domestic product. Estimates for 1973 give the following figures:

Belgium:	6.8%
Canada:	3.6%
Denmark:	13.2%
France:	17.5%
Germany:	27.4%
Italy:	30.0%
Japan:	45.8%
Luxembourg:	153.1%
Netherlands:	68.8%
Sweden:	9.6%
Switzerland:	23.2%
United Kingdom:	52.5%
United States:	41.0%

The percentages for the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Japan and the United States are particularly striking since they relate solely to the activities of the top 200. As to the figure for Luxembourg, it should be said that it reflects the activities of a single multinational, also one of the top 200.

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Europe should let off a twenty-one gun salute to mark the adoption of eighteen new directives. It may seem strange to think of according honours normally reserved for crown princes to a pile of fusty documents but some of these directives have had a long hard struggle for survival. And they, with the sixty-two directives already adopted, will influence the lives of more than 250 million Europeans. The package contains seven directives on motor vehicles, two on tractors, four on measuring instruments, two on electrical interference and one each on aerosols, cosmetic products and dangerous substances and preparations.

After years of hard work and perseverance, the Community's internal market, and hence its internal cohesion, will be noticeably strengthened by the adoption of these texts. The technical specifications harmonized cover a wide range of products. By making it possible for firms to sell their wares throughout the common market, these directives enliven competition thereby increasing the variety and quality of products offered to the consumer. Mass production becomes feasible which means that the European consumer will pay less for his purchases.

Cosmetic products

Since the primary aim here is to protect public health, the directive opts for total harmonization, that is to say it establishes common rules at European level. It provides for informative labelling, indicating composition and giving directions for use, and for the suppression of misleading advertising.

The directive contains a list of prohibited substances and two lists of substances permitted subject to restrictions relating to concentration and use. Two are definitive, the third is provisional. It will now be possible for Europeans - male and female - to look more attractive without putting their health at risk.

Dangerous substances

The directive restricting the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations must be seen as the vital adjunct to two earlier directives - the one dealing with the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances, the other with dangerous preparations used as solvents.

The primary aim of the new directive is to safeguard human life and health but it should also help to protect the environment and improve the quality of life.

Its technical content can be summed up as a total ban on the use of vinyl chloride monomer as an aerosol propellant (in view of the health hazard) and an almost total ban on PCBs and PCTs (polychlorinated biphenyls and triphenyls). The use of these substances will be allowed in certain closed systems (transformers, condensers and so on) for a transitional period.

Electrical interference

The two directives coming under this heading deal with interference produced by domestic appliances, hand tools and similar appliances, and fluorescent lighting. They are the first in a series of directives which will eventually cover all electrical appliances and machines subject to national regulations in this matter. Harmonization is total, that is to say that it substitutes common European rules for existing national rules.

These directives represent real progress. In the first place audiences all over the Community can now look forward to improved radio and television reception. In the second place manufacturers will no longer have to play with specifications to satisfy national requirements - regulations will be identical in all Community countries.

Motor vehicles

The jigsaw-puzzle of Community provisions for motor vehicles is nearing completion: the seven new directives bring the total to twenty-eight, and it can reasonably be assumed that before very long all European cars will conform to clear European standards.

All the new directives relate to lighting and illuminated signalling devices. Without doubt the most important of the seven is the one laying down specifications for fitting the various lights on the vehicle. The others lay down construction specifications for the lights themselves: main beam headlights, dipped headlights, sidelights and tail-lights, stop lights, outline marker lights, direction indicator lights, front fog lights, number-plate lights and reflectors.

In future, for instance, cars will have to leave the factory fitted with at least a rear fog light, a reversing light and side direction indicator lights in addition of course to the lights which are now normally fitted as standard. The new requirements specify in respect of each light the number, position, geometric angle of visibility and tell-tale lights.

Agricultural or forestry tractors

The new directive deals with maximum noise levels and was prompted by concern to improve working conditions for tractor drivers by protecting them from excessive noise. Community directives on agricultural and forestry tractors now number ten.

Measuring instruments

Adoption of the four latest directives (on clinical thermometers, electricity meters, alcoholometric tables and alcolometers) brings Community directives in the field of metrology to a total of twenty.

The emphasis on this sector is justified not only by sales of the instruments themselves but also by trade in the products measured. This is particularly true of the (related) directives on alcoholometric tables and alcoholometers. A wide variety of methods are used throughout the world, and indeed within the Community, to define and measure the alcoholic strength of water alcohol mixtures (i.e., wine, spirits and so on). Given the volume of trade in these products, the diversity of methods led to constant confusion about alcoholic strength: for consumers there was considerable risk of error and for manufacturers endless disputes about the amount of excise duty to be paid.

Because the new directives are based on the work of the International Organization for Legal Metrology (IOLM), whose activities are worldwide, their adoption will not only facilitate intra-Community but also extra-Community trade.

Pressure vessels

There are a surprising number of vessels in which the pressure is greater than 0.5 bars (gas cylinders used for heating, cooking or welding, high pressure steam boilers, and so on). The outline directive now adopted lays down extremely accurate specifications to prevent any risk of explosion. From now on inspections carried out by the competent authorities in one Community country will be recognized in the others.

TEACHER TRAINING IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

When they met on 10 December 1975 the Community's Education Ministers agreed on the general principles of a Community action programme in the field of education (see I&S No 42/75). The success of all aspects of this venture - be it syllabus reform, education of young migrants or relations with the outside world - will depend to a large extent on how teachers are trained.

This is one of the reasons which prompted Mario Reguzzoni of the teacher training institute in Milan to carry out an in-depth study of teacher training in the nine Community countries. Extracts from his study are reproduced below (captions by Euroforum).

Training for management

A survey carried out in the Netherlands showed that 39% of teachers interviewed in secondary schools consider a cooperative attitude necessary within the school. This fact alone should lead to a total reassessment of the teacher training process. If it is remembered that the call for mutual cooperation applies not only to actual class teaching, but is part of an overall management trend by which any action is undertaken only after assessment of the available resources in terms of material and personnel, it very soon becomes apparent that a study of management problems is a priority in any teacher training programme.

The trend towards co-management of schools comes out clearly in the new policies in Denmark, Belgium and Italy. In other countries too, especially in France and now in the Netherlands with parents' committees, teachers find themselves facing management problems resulting from the demands made by parents' associations. In these three countries it is a question of teachers taking over actual administrative duties for which they will have to acquire "managerial" capacities.

Training for mobility

A further significant change in the teaching profession is mobility. This takes two forms - internal (which allows movement between the various levels of instruction in answer to teachers' needs) and external (which permits exchanges of staff outside the school to meet the changing needs of pupils).

It seems that external mobility is proving rather difficult to achieve in all Community countries. The French experiment (admittedly a small-scale one) to provide further training for teachers by placing them in the production sector is of major interest. The Italian system of bringing in experts to school assemblies also has great possibilities.

However minor such changes in the framework of the teaching profession may be, they reveal an increasing tendency to open up schools to society, and will no doubt profoundly change the substance of teacher training. Teachers will have to learn to interact with other professions.

Working conditions

To return to the Netherlands, only 1% of the secondary school teachers interviewed considered the major factor in professional competence to be knowledge of the subject; 83% attached most importance to the ability to work along with the pupils. To this must be added the fact that a third of the teacher's time is no longer employed in teaching, but in further study and group activities among teachers and others associated with the school.

The general trend throughout the Community is towards a teacher/pupil ratio of 1:20-25, except in the United Kingdom which aims at a ratio of 1:15-17. This reduction reflects not so much a movement towards smaller classes as such but the introduction of new optional subjects, which may call for classes with very few pupils. Another explanation is that many teachers, particularly in Germany, work throughout the day but teach different groups of pupils who attend school for only a few hours a week as in the case of part-time vocational training.

Participation in innovatory measures is particularly striking in England where Teachers' Centres make it possible to constantly update curricula without any need to resort to formalized and controlled experiments as in Italy and France.

The changing face of teacher training

Only Italy and the Netherlands still run nursery-school teacher training courses at secondary-school level, the difference being that in Italy students train at 14 to 17, while in the Netherlands the age is 16 to 18. In all the other countries, nursery school teacher training is carried out at university level, although not in university, and takes two years.

Italy is the only member country to train primary teachers at secondary school level. In Belgium, France and Luxembourg there are two-year courses in higher training establishments, which students may enter after completing secondary school. The same applies in Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, where studies take three years, and Denmark, where they have been extended to three and a half years.

Junior secondary training is carried out in post-secondary teacher training institutes, for two years in Belgium, three in Germany, two to four in France and three to six years in the Netherlands (depending on the kind of school where the student will teach) and for four years in Denmark. In Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom, training is at university and takes four years. In the United Kingdom, training may take place at special institutes attached to a university.

Teaching practice takes very different forms, ranging from simple exercises in Belgium to four or five months' preparation for the appropriate examinations in Denmark; or from the training year in Regional Pedagogical Centres in France to the extended eighteen-months' effective service in Germany and three years' service in Luxembourg; and from the fifty-hours' teaching qualification in Italy to the year of university-level teacher study in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Reform

Important proposals for training-scheme reform are being implemented in England: two years of joint university study for everyone, followed by one or two years of teaching specialization. Germany is experimenting with a sandwich system, alternating scientific and practical training. The Netherlands propose four years of joint study followed by a two-year part-time teaching assignment. Italy is the only Community country to propose four years' study at university for teachers of all levels.

Conclusion

Whatever the capacity of universities to ensure adequate teacher training, the problem facing all Community countries is that of creating a system of permanent education in which the preliminary training period is fairly short and which provides an opportunity for continued further education throughout a teacher's professional life.

The formula adopted in England seems best suited to meet this requirement, all the more so in that it is accompanied by an increasingly strong network of Teachers' Centres, which allow for constant contact between teachers of all grades and levels. Only in this way will teachers become factors for change instead of mere purveyors of processed knowledge.

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